

Claims

1. A method of preventing Type I diabetes, comprising:  
identifying a subject susceptible to Type I diabetes; and  
administering to the subject a pharmaceutically effective amount of a p38 mitogen activated protein (MAP) kinase inhibitor sufficient to prevent onset of Type I diabetes.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the subject presents an increased immune response against a heat shock protein.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the heat shock protein is HSP 60.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said p38 MAP kinase inhibitor is selective for p38 $\alpha$ , p38 $\beta$ , p38 $\gamma$ , or p38 $\delta$ .
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said patient is a human.
6. A method of decreasing blood glucose levels, comprising:  
providing to a subject with elevated blood glucose levels with a pharmaceutically effective amount of a p38 mitogen activated protein (MAP) kinase inhibitor sufficient to decrease blood glucose level in said patient.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein said p38 MAP kinase inhibitor is selective for p38 $\alpha$ , p38 $\beta$ , p38 $\gamma$ , or p38 $\delta$ .
8. The method of claim 6, wherein said patient is a human.
9. A method of inhibiting body weight loss in a subject suffering from Type I diabetes, comprising:  
identifying the subject suffering from to Type I diabetes; and  
providing the subject with a pharmaceutically effective amount of a p38 mitogen activated protein (MAP) kinase inhibitor sufficient to inhibit body weight loss in the subject.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein said p38 MAP kinase inhibitor is selective for p38 $\alpha$ , p38 $\beta$ , p38 $\gamma$ , or p38 $\delta$ .
11. The method of claim 9, wherein said patient is a human.